

STAT

[redacted] Approved For Release 2004/01/29 : CIA-RDP85B00803R000200040038-8  
Powers' documents  
carried on flight

RYBAT

To [redacted]

25 May 1960

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"Considerable post mortem comment developing in press and elsewhere here in relation to alleged 'amateurism' of U-2 flight as evidenced by Powers being permitted to carry personal wallet, contents of which have been vigorously exploited by Soviets. Wallet contents placed on display Moscow, photographed and reproduced in U.S. press.

"DCI facing early Congressional probe, and variety of questions on broad front dealing with details of incident. DPD on hook to staff him out with best answer to foll questions:

- a. Did Det SOP exist to cover checking pilots for possible compromising documents prior to overflight
- b. If so was Powers requested surrender such docs?
- c. Whose responsibility to physically see that he not in possession of such docs before take-off?

"Trust you realize that inquiry of this nature an inevitable result of flap of magnitude of U-2 incident and not star chamber effort by Hqs."

(answer attached)

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Powers documentation

26 May 1960

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"1. A written SOP does not exist. However subject has been discussed with all drivers numerous times and specifically with Powers prior to Flight 4154. Powers in complete understanding as to prohibition against carrying documents connecting him with the det and project...Documents in Powers' quarters i.e. club card, DAF iden, ration card, drivers license confirm his compliance with directive. ..No one person has designated responsibility of physically searching driver's wallet or person.

"4. As a matter of general information would like to point out that the problem of pilots departing a base located in one country for a base in another, with the possibility of having to land at any of several other countries which are not necessarily hostile, poses a problem of carrying identification sufficient to partially satisfy any local authority and which is consistent with the story of being a lost weather research pilot. Therefore, carrying NASA iden, social security card, and some US currency is not at all inconsistent nor necessarily incriminating. The presence of a wallet, per se, does not appear to be inconsistent with the provision of Ops Pol Letter No. 6 or with instructions to reveal true identity. If subjected to capture and intensive interrogation. The peculiarities of a U-2

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type mission and the provisions of Ops Policy Ltr No 8 distinguish these missions from a fully covert operation and from a military combat operation insofar as responses to interrogation is concerned and insofar as the problems of identification faced by a pilot if forced to land at other than the planned destination. Feel that the charges of "amateurism" arise from a lack of appreciation of the above factors since, to the best of our knowledge, Powers did not carry any unnecessary documents which were incriminating per se to any greater degree than such necessary items as let-down and navigation charts, E&E and survival gear.

"5. Am in complete sympathy as to pressures being placed on you and desire to do anything you direct to lend assistance."